



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
Eastern District of California*

*501 I Street, Suite 10-100  
Sacramento, California 95814*

*916/554-2700  
Fax 916/554-2900*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
February 9, 2005

*Contact: Patty Pontello, 916-554-2706  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae/home](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae/home)*

**DEFENDANT RECEIVES JAIL TIME  
FOR CIGARETTE PAPER FRAUD SCHEME**

SACRAMENTO--McGregor W. Scott, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of California, announced today that ABDULKADER ADNAN ADIE, 37, of Stockton, was sentenced yesterday to one year and six months of prison for perpetrating a scheme to sell counterfeit Zig-Zag cigarette paper throughout the United States.

The case is the product of an extensive investigation conducted by the FBI and the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation.

U.S. District Court Judge Morrison C. England sentenced ADIE to eighteen months imprisonment and placed him on supervised release for a period of 2 years. ADIE, a Syrian national, has agreed to not contest deportation following his term of imprisonment.

According to Assistant United States Attorney S. Robert Tice-Raskin, who prosecuted the case, ADIE engaged in a fraudulent scheme in connection with the distribution and sale of Zig-Zag 1 1/4 size French Orange cigarette paper from October, 2002, until May, 2004. During that time period, North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc. ("NAOC") was the owner of all relevant United States legal rights associated with the distribution of Zig-Zag brand cigarette paper in the United States and was the sole legal distributor of Zig-Zag paper in the United States including Zig-Zag 1 1/4 size French Orange paper. As part of the scheme, defendant ADIE knowingly repackaged lesser quality Zig-Zag brand cigarette paper distributed by another company and authorized for sale only in Syria, in packages that appeared to be the same as the Zig-Zag 1 1/4 size French Orange paper ordinarily and legitimately distributed in the United States by NAOC. The approximate loss to NAOC was \$291,500 to \$330,000.

###